



Practitioner's Docket No. SST/816

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent application

of \_\_\_\_\_ Inventor(s)

for \_\_\_\_\_ Title of invention

OR

In re application of: Commins, Leek, Linn, Gregg & Colonias/Simpson Strong-Tie Co., Inc.

Application No. 08 / 975,940 Group Art Unit: 3635  
Filed: 11-21-97, CPA filed 3-27-00 Examiner: C. Kent  
For: BUILDING WALL FOR RESISTING LATERAL FORCES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING OR  
BEFORE MAILING OF FIRST OFFICE ACTION (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

NOTE: "An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed by the applicant: (1) within three months of the filing date of a national application; (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; or (3) before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last." 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

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deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: May 12, 2000

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transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office.

Signature

Charles R. Cypher

(type or print name of person certifying)

(Transmittal of Information Disclosure Statement Within Three Months of Filing or Before Mailing of First Office Action [6-3]—page 1 of 2)

**NOTE:** The "filing date of a national application" under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) has two possible meanings. Where the filing is a direct one to the United States Patent & Trademark Office, the filing is defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) as "the date on which: (1) A specification containing a description pursuant to § 1.71 and at least one claim pursuant to § 1.75; and (2) any drawing required by § 1.81(a), are filed in the Patent and Trademark Office in the name of the actual inventor or inventors as required by § 1.41." 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1). On the other hand, an international application that enters the national stage occurs when the applicant has filed the documents and fees required by 35 U.S.C. § 371(c) within the periods set forth in § 1.494 or § 1.495. 35 U.S.C. § 371(c) requires the filing of the following: (1) the basic national fee; (2) a copy of the international application, unless already sent by the International Bureau, and optionally an English translation if filed in another language; and, also optionally (3) amendments under PCT Article 19, with a translation into English if made in another language; (4) an oath or declaration; and (5) a translation into English of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report, if such annexes were made in another language. The optional items must be submitted later, with surcharges. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2).

### **IDENTIFICATION OF TIME OF FILING THE ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

**NOTE:** "No certification or fee is due when the filing is made within the above time period. It is advisable to ensure that no Office action has been mailed if the disclosure statement is delayed until after three months from filing."

**NOTE:** "An information disclosure statement will be considered to have been filed on the day it was received in the Office, or on an earlier date of a mailing if accompanied by a properly executed certificate of mailing under 37 C.F.R. 1.8, or Express Mail certificate under 37 C.F.R. 1.10. An Office action is mailed on the date indicated in the Office action." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

**NOTE:** "The term 'national application' includes continuing applications (continuations, divisions, continuations-in-part) so three-months will be measured from the actual filing date of an application as opposed [sic] to the effective date of a continuing application." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

**NOTE:** "An action on the merits means an action which treats the patentability of the claims in an application, as opposed to only formal or procedural requirements. An action on the merits would, for example, contain a rejection or indication of allowability of a claim or claims rather than just a restriction requirements (37 C.F.R. 1.142) or just a requirement for additional fees to have a claim considered (37 C.F.R. 1.16(d)). Thus, if an application was filed on Jan. 1 and the first Office action on the merits was not mailed until six months later on July 1, the examiner would be required to consider any proper information disclosure statement filed prior to July 1." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

**WARNING:** "A petition for suspension of action to allow applicant time to submit an information disclosure statement will be denied as failing to present good and sufficient reasons, since 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 provides adequate recourse for the timely submission of prior art for consideration by the examiner." Notice of July 6, 1992 (1141 O.G. 63).

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER**

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Practitioner's Docket No. SST/816

**PATENT**



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Patent application  
of \_\_\_\_\_ Inventor(s)  
for \_\_\_\_\_ Title of invention  
the specification of which is being transmitted herewith

**OR**

In re application of: Commins, Leek, Linn, Gregg, & Colonias/Simpson Strong-Tie Co., Inc.  
Application No.: 0 8 / 975,940 Group No.: 3635  
Filed: November 21, 1997 Examiner: C. Kent  
For: BUILDING WALL FOR RESISTING LATERAL FORCES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.8(a) and 1.10\***  
(When using Express Mail, the Express Mail label number is mandatory;  
Express Mail certification is optional.)

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

**MAILING**

deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231  
37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)  as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"  
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**TRANSMISSION**

transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office.

Charles R. Cypher  
Signature

Date: May 22 2000

Charles R. Cypher

(type or print name of person certifying)

\*WARNING: Each paper or fee filed by Express Mail must have the number of the "Express Mail" mailing label placed thereon prior to mailing. 37 C.F.R. § 1.10(b).

"Since the filing of correspondence under § 1.10 without the Express Mail mailing label thereon is an oversight that can be avoided by the exercise of reasonable care, requests for waiver of this requirement will not be granted on petition." Notice of Oct. 24, 1996, 60 Fed. Reg. 56,439, at 56,442.

(Information Disclosure Statement [6-1]—page 1 of 9)

**NOTE:** "An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed by the applicant:

- (1) Within three months of the filing date of a national application;
- (2) Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; or
- (3) Before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last."

37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

**NOTE:** "Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section." 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a).

"Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) each inventor named in the application;
- (2) each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application." 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c).

**NOTE:** The "duty as described in § 1.56 will be met so long as the information in question was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98 before issuance of the patent." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13 -25 at 17.

**WARNING:** "No information disclosure statement may be filed in a provisional application." 37 C.F.R. § 1.51(b).

### **List of Sections Forming Part of This Information Disclosure Statement**

The following sections are being submitted for this Information Disclosure Statement:

*(check sections forming a part of this statement: discard unused sections and number pages consecutively)*

1.  Preliminary Statements
2.  FORMS PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly FORM PTO-1449)
3.  Statement as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications
4.  Identification of Prior Application in Which Listed Information Was Already Cited and for Which No Copies Are Submitted or Need Be Submitted
5.  Cumulative Patents or Publications
6.  Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement
7.  Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items
  - 7A.  EPO Search Report
  - 7B.  English Language Version of EPO Search Report
8.  Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents
9.  Concise Explanation of English Language Listed Information Items (Optional)
10.  Identification of Person(s) Making This Information Disclosure Statement

*(complete the following, if appropriate)*

Sections \_\_\_\_\_, respectively, have been continued on ADDED PAGE(S).

**NOTE:** "Once the minimum requirements are met, the examiner has an obligation to consider the information." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 37).

### **Section 1. Preliminary statements**

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information, of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

## **Section 2. Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449)**

**NOTE:** With respect to the list required by paragraph (b) of 37 C.F.R. 1.98, the Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41) points out that:

"The list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper. A separate list is required so that it is easy to confirm that applicant intends to submit an information disclosure statement, and because it provides a readily available checklist for the examiner to indicate which identified documents have been considered. A copy of a separate list will also provide a simple means of communication to applicant to indicate the listed documents that have been considered and those listed documents that have not been considered. Use of form PTO-1449, "Information Disclosure Citation, is encouraged."

**NOTE:** "An information disclosure statement may include two list[s] (and two certifications)] . . . in situations where some of the information listed was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office not more than three months prior to filing the statement and some was not, but was not known more than three months prior to filing the statement." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 40).

**NOTE:** With respect to the examiner's consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement, the Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41) states:

"If information is listed in the specification rather than in a separate paper, or if the other content requirements \*\*\* are not complied with, the examiner will notify applicant in the next Office action that the information has not been considered. It should be noted, however, that no copy of a U.S. patent application is required to be submitted. \*\*\* Where a U.S. patent application is properly cited, the examiner should obtain access to that file within the Office.

"Examiners must consider all citations submitted in conformance with the rules and this section and place their initials adjacent [sic] the citations on a list or in the boxes provided on a form PTO-1449. If the citations are submitted on a list other than a form PTO-1449, the examiner may write "all considered" and his or her initials to indicate that all citations have been considered. If any of the citations are considered, a copy of the submitted list or form, as reviewed by the examiner, will be returned to the applicant with the next communication. The original copy of the form will be entered into the application file. The copy returned to applicant will serve both as acknowledgement of receipt of the information disclosure statement and as an indication that the references were considered by the examiner. Forms PTO-326 and PTOL-37 include a box to indicate the attachment of form PTO-1449.

"Information which complies with requirements as discussed in this section but which is in a non-English language will be considered in view of the concise explanation submitted \*\*\* and insofar as it is understood on its face, e.g., drawings, chemical formulas, in the same manner that non-English language information in Office search files is considered by examiners in conducting searches. The examiner need not have the information translated unless it appears to be necessary to do so. \*\*\* The examiner should not require that a translation be filed by applicant. The examiner should not make any comment such as that the non-English language information has only been considered to the extent understood, since this fact is inherent.

"Since information is required to be listed in a separate paper rather than in the specification, there is no need to mark "All checked" or "Checked" in the margin of a specification containing citations.

"If a statement fails to comply with the requirements as discussed in this section for an item of information, a line should be drawn through the citation to show that it has not been considered. The other items of information listed that do comply with the rules and this section will be considered by the examiner and will be appropriately initialed.

\* \* \* \* \*

"A citation listed on form PTO-1449 and considered by the examiner in accordance with this section will be printed on the patent. A citation listed in a separate paper, equivalent to but not on form PTO-1449, and considered by the examiner in accordance with this section will be printed on the patent if the list is on a separate sheet which is clearly identified as an information disclosure statement and the list lends itself to easy capture of the necessary information by the Office printing contractor, i.e., each item of information is listed on a single line, the lines are at least double-spaced from each other, the information is uniform in format for each listed item, the list includes a column for the examiner's initials to indicate that the information was considered. If a citation is not printed on the patent but has been considered by the examiner in accordance with this section, the patented file will reflect that fact . . ."

## **Section 6. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement**

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2) requires that any information disclosure statement filed under § 1.97 shall include: "A legible copy of: (1) Each U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) Each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) All other information or that portion which caused it to be listed, except that no copy of a U.S. patent application need be included . . ."

**NOTE:** The wording in § 1.98(a)(2)(iii) makes it clear that the requirement to submit a copy of each item of information listed in an information disclosure statement does not apply to the citation of a U.S. patent application. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 14.

Legible copies of all items listed in Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449) accompany this information statement.

*(complete the following, if applicable)*

**Exception(s) to above:**

- Items in prior application, from which an earlier filing date is claimed for this application, as identified in Section 4.
- Cumulative patents or publications identified in Section 5.

## **Section 7. Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items**

**NOTE:** "A concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information of each patent, publication, or other information listed that is not in the English language shall be included in any information disclosure statement filed under § 1.97. The concise explanation may be either separate from the specification or incorporated therein." 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3).

**NOTE:** "[T]he explanation required is limited to the relevance as understood by the individual designated in § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information at the time the information is submitted to the Office." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25 at 14.

**NOTE:** "Where the information listed is not in the English language, but was cited in a search report by a foreign patent officer, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance is satisfied by submitting an English language version of the search report." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 14.

**NOTE:** "The concise explanation requirement for non-English language information may be met by submission of an English language version of the search report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 20.

**WARNING:** "The requirement in § 1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of non-English language information would not be satisfied by a statement that a reference was cited in the prosecution of a parent application." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25 at 20 (emphasis added).

JP 3-208936, Okabe, M., Published: September 12, 1991

According to the translation available to the Applicant, this published application relates to the construction of "frame-built houses, wherein a structural body is built using columns, beams, etc., and panels are mounted to the structural body." Section 3. Detailed Explanation of the Invention [Prior Art].

The application describes the prior art which teaches that in so called "frame-built houses a steel outer frame *a* fitted with diagonal braces *b* to form a so-called load-bearing panel *C* (shown in FIG. 4) has typically been used to increase the durability and strength of the house." Section 3. Detailed Explanation of the Invention [Prior Art].

The subject matter of JP 3-208936 is an improved wall panel or load-bearing panel for such a frame-built house. The wall panel of this application comprises "long upper and lower members joined by vertical members". Additionally, the wall panel "is furnished with a framework having a reinforcing section comprising parallel middle members connected to said upper and lower members and braces connected diagonally between said middle members." Section 3. Detailed Explanation of the Invention [Means of Solving the Problems].

It appears that great importance is also placed on the wall panel additionally being provided with "fittings for coupling with the structural body of a house." See claim 1. These fittings are disposed on the upper and lower members of the wall panel. The fittings are positioned "in the vicinity of where the ends of said middle members are connected and at positions removed from said ends in directions away from the reinforcing section." Section 3. Detailed Explanation of the Invention [Means of Solving the Problems].

The above-mentioned pairs of fittings can be used in the alternative, depending on whether the wall is located on the lowest level of the house or an upper level. See Section 3. Detailed Explanation of the Invention [Working Examples].

The wall panel is also provided with "the same kind of fittings 23, 24 ... on the top and bottom of [the] vertical members 4, 4 and joint member 17." See Section 3. Detailed Explanation of the Invention [Working Examples].

The wall panel is also provided with "face members 14, 15 ... on the front and back of vertical members 4, 4, middle members 5, 5 and joint members 16, 17 with wooden lining members 19, which are relatively thin and long in the vertical direction disposed in-between."

## **Section 8. Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents**

**NOTE:** "If a written English language translation of a non-English language document, or portion thereof, is within the possession, custody or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in § 1.56(c), a copy of the translation shall accompany the statement." 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c).

**NOTE:** "The Office does not intend to require translations unless they have been reduced to writing and are actually translations of what is contained in the non-English language information. Applicants should note, however, that most examiners do not have the ability to understand information which is not in English and that the Office will not routinely translate information submitted in a non-English language. The examiner will consider the information insofar as it is understood on its face, e.g., drawings, chemical formulas, English language abstracts, but will not have the information translated unless it appears to be necessary to do so. Applicants are required to aid the examiner by complying with the requirements for a concise explanation in § 1.98(a)(3) for information submitted in a non-English language." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 21.

**NOTE:** "The examiner will indicate that the non-English language information has been considered in the same manner as consideration is indicated for information submitted in English." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 41).

Submitted herewith is an English translation of the following foreign language patents, publications or information or of those portions of those patents, publications or information considered to be material:

JF 3-208936

(complete the following, if applicable)

No English language translations of the foreign language patents, publications or information or parts thereof are readily available, except for those listed above.

The following foreign language documents submitted are believed to be the equivalent or substantial equivalent of the English language documents identified below, which are also submitted herewith.

**Section 10. Identification of Person(s) Making This Information Disclosure Statement**

The person making this statement is

(check each applicable item)

(a)  the inventor(s) who signs below

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SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR

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(type name of inventor who is signing)

(b)  an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c))

---

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR

---

(type name of inventor who is signing)

(c)  the practitioner who signs below on the basis of the information:

(check each applicable item)

supplied by the inventor(s).  
 supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application. (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c))  
 in the practitioner's file.



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SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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Charles R. Cypher

---

(type or print name of practitioner)

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